

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01 TRSE-00
XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-04 CEA-01
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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3526

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY ATHENS BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY BERN BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY BONN BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY LISBON BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY LONDON BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY MADRID BY POUCH

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AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK BY POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, NO

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS MEETING IN OSLO

REF: OSLO 822

1. SUMMARY: REPRESENTATIVES FROM LABOR UNIONS AND SOCIALIST PARTIES OF 18 WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING PRIME MINISTERS JAMES CALLAGHAN OF UK AND ANKER JORGENSEN OF DENMARK, AND FRG CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, MET IN OSLO, APRIL 1-3 FOR THE EUROPEAN LABOR MOVEMENT CONFERENCE ON ECONOMIC POLICY AND FULL EMPLOYMENT. CONFERENCE COMMUNIQUE CALLED FOR FULL EMPLOYMENT IN WESTERN EUROPE BY 1980, TO BE ACHIEVED BY MORE WELFARE-ORIENTED GROWTH (HEALTH, EDUCATION AND LEISURE TIME); INVESTMENT FOR SOCIAL PURPOSES (HOUSING, NEW ENERGY RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION); AND MORE ACTIVE LABOR MARKETS. COMMUNIQUE WILL BE SENT TO LONDON ECONOMIC SUMMIT, UPCOMING EMPLOYEE-EMPLOYER MEETING AT EC, AND TO EFTA AND OECD. DELEGATE FROM NORWEGIAN LO TOLD US COMMUNIQUE ALSO BEING SENT TO PRESIDENT CARTER. GENERAL HARMONY OF MEETING ONLY SLIGHTLY UPSET BY SCHMIDT'S CRITICISM OF SCANDINAVIAN DEVALUATION OF KRONER ON FRIDAY, APRIL 1, AND HIS DISAGREEMENT WITH EMPHASIS AT CONFERENCE ON FULL EMPLOYMENT. NORWEGIANS GENERALLY PLEASED WITH MEETING, AND PERHAPS VIEW CONFERENCE IN SOME WAYS AS ALTERNATIVE TO THEIR PARTICIPATION IN LONDON ECONOMIC SUMMIT. END SUMMARY.

2. TRADE UNION CONFEDERATIONS FROM ALL EUROPEAN OECD COUNTRIES EXCEPT FRANCE, GREECE, AND PORTUGAL, AND 14 EUROPEAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES AFFILIATED WITH THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL, GATHERED IN OSLO APRIL 1-3 FOR THE EUROPEAN LABOR MOVEMENT CONFERENCE ON ECONOMIC POLICY AND FULL EMPLOYMENT. TWO-HUNDRED EUROPEAN PARTY AND UNION LEADERS TOOK PART INCLUDING PRIME MINISTERS ODVAR NORDLI OF NORWAY, JAMES CALLAGHAN OF UK, ANKER JORGENSEN OF DENMARK, CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT OF FRG AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER OLAV PALME OF SWEDEN. PURPOSE OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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MEETING WAS TO FOCUS ON PROBLEM OF CONINUING INTERNATIONAL RECESSION AND CONCERN OF EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS AND TRADE UNIONISTS ABOUT SERIOUS UNEMPLOYMENT, AND TO DISCUSS COMMON APPROACH THAT EUROPEAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC (SD) LABOR MOVEMENTS CAN TAKE TOWARDS THE PROBLEM. NORWEGIAN AND NORDIC LABOR MOVEMENTS HAVE TAKEN THE LEAD IN GETTING THIS SUBMECT DISCUSSED BY SOCIAL DEMOCRATS IN SEVERAL EARLIER MEETINGS, INCLUDING NORDIC SD'S IN HELSINKI (NOVEMBER 1976) AND EFTA COUNTRIES SD'S IN STOCKHOLM IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR. OBSERVERS FROM SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING ICFTU, ETUC, NORDIC COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS, OECD AND TUAC, EC, EFTA, ALSO ATTENDED THE OSLO CONFERENCE.

3. THE CONFERENCE COMMUNIQUE CALLED FOR FULL EMPLOYMENT IN WESTERN EUROPEAN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES BY 1980. THIS COULD BE ACHIEVED, ACCORDING TO THE FINAL CONFERENCE DOCUMENT, (A) THROUGH MORE WELFARE-ORIENTED GROWTH, INCLUDING IMPROVED WORKING CONDITIONS, EDUCATION, HEALTH AND LEISURE TIME; (B) THROUGH INVESTMENT POLICIES WHICH PROMOTE MORE HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, DEVELOPMENT OF NEW ENERGY RESOURCES, ENERGY CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION;

AND (C) THROUGH MORE ACTIVE LABOR MARKET POLICIES. THE COMMUNIQUE ALSO OPPOSED PROTECTIONIST MEASURES IN TRADE, AND CALLED FOR GREATER WESTERN EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN THE MONETARY SYSTEM, INCLUDING CONTROL OF SHORT TERM CAPITAL MOVEMENTS AS AID FOR REDUCING UNEMPLOYMENT. THE CONFERENCE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF INTRA-EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN EC AND EFTA AREA, CALLING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PRACTICAL FORMS OF CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION BETWEEN COUNTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS TO SECURE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL OBJECTIVES. SPECIFICALLY, THE DELEGATES CALLED ON OECD TO PREPARE A PLAN FOR FULL EMPLOYMENT BY 1980 FOR ALL INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, AND IN A FRAMEWORK WHICH WOULD ALSO PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT IN THE THIRD WORLD.

4. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEVALUATION OF SWEDISH, NORWEGIAN AND DANISH CURRENCIES COINCIDED WITH THE CONFERENCE, CAUSING FRG CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT TO CRITICIZE THE THREE COUNTRIES' MOVE. AS THE WORST WAY TO FIGHT UNEMPLOYMENT. ACCORDING TO SCHMIDT, UNCLASSIFIED

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THE MAJOR EMPHASIS IN GOVERNMENT POLICY SHOULD BE ON SOLVING THE PROBLEM OF INFLATION. IF PRICES DO NOT BECOME MORE STABLE, HE ADDED, THE ECONOMIC CRISIS WILL NEVER BE OVERCOME. PALME JOINED SCHMIDT IN HIS CRITICISM, STATING FURTHER THAT THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT'S ACTION ONLY SERVED TO DISTRIBUTE SWEDEN'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS TO NORWAY AND DENMARK.

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA BY POUCH

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5. PM CALLAGHAN IN HIS REMARKS NOTED THAT FULL EMPLOYMENT WAS A GOAL TO BE PURSUED, BUT WAS DIFFICULT TO ATTAIN. WHAT WAS NEEDED, CALLAGHAN SAID, WAS SOUND GOVERNMENTAL POLICY TOWARD INVESTMENT. MUCH NEW INVESTMENT WILL BE NEEDED FOR AN EVENTUAL FULL ECONOMIC RECOVERY, BUT THE PRIME MINISTER REMINDED HIS AUDIENCE THAT NEW INVESTMENT ITSELF CAN BRING NEW UNEMPLOYMENT IN ITS WAKE. IMPORTANT ANSWERS TO EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS CAN BE FOUND THROUGH EARLIER RETIREMENT, SHORTER WORK WEEK, INCREASED TRAINING AND RE-TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES, AND CAREFUL USE OF PUBLIC SERVICE SECTOR TO CREATE NEW JOBS, CALLAGHAN ADDED.

6. THE COMMUNIQUE AND ITS CONCLUSIONS WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF WESTERN EUROPE, EC AND THE UPCOMING EC EMPLOYEE-EMPLOYER CONFERENCE, THE EFTA HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING IN VIENNA, THE LONDON ECONOMIC SUMMIT, AND THE OECD. A MEMBER OF THE NORWEGIAN DELEGATION AT THE CONFERENCE TOLD EMBOFF THAT NORWEGIAN LO WOULD SEND A COPY OF THE CONFERENCE CONCLUSIONS TO PRESIDENT CARTER, AND ASK THAT HE HAVE THEM IN MIND AT LONDON SUMMIT. THE CONFERENCE AGREED THAT SIMILAR SD CONFERENCES BE HELD FROM TIME TO TIME.

7. COMMENT: OSLO CONFERENCE IS PART OF CONTINUING EFFORT BY

NORWEGIAN AND OTHER NORDIC LABOR MOVEMENTS TO KEEP INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATION IN PLAIN VIEW OF SCANDINAVIAN LABOR MOVEMENT MEMBERS. IN PART, AT LEAST, THEY CAN DEMONSTRATE TO MEMBERSHIP THAT INTERNAL ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES ARE RELATED TO INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AND THAT COOPERATION AMONG SD PARTIES AND UNIONS CAN HELP DEVELOP COMMON APPROACH FOR DEALING WITH EUROPEAN ASPECTS OF PROBLEM.

NORWEGIANS MADE STRONG EFFORT TO MAKE MEETING IN OSLO INTO A SUMMIT OF EUROPEAN SD LEADERS. THEY GOT CALLAGHAN, JORGENSEN, SCHMIDT, DEN VYL AND PALME, BUT WERE DISAPPOINTED NOT TO ALSO HAVE MITTERAND, TINDEMANS, BRANDT, SOARES AND GONZALEZ. PERHAPS UNCLASSIFIED

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THEY HAD HOPED TO SHARE SOME OF THE WORLD-WIDE PUBLICITY THAT WILL ACCRUE TO THE LONDON SUMMIT, OR AT ANY RATE TO ASSUAGE NORWEGIAN DISAPPOINTMENT AT NOT BEING INCLUDED IN THE LONDON MEETING. AT LEAST, OSLO MEETING KEEPS NORWEGIAN LABOR PARTY'S PUBLICITY MOMENTUM GOING IN THIS ELECTION YEAR.

NORWEGIANS WERE GENERALLY PLEASED THAT THEY WERE ABLE TO HAVE SUCH A MEETING IN OSLO. HOWEVER, DIVERGENT POSITIONS OF SOCIALIST GOVERNMENTS OF LARGER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, UK AND FRG, ON PROBLEM OF UNEMPLOYMENT MUST MAKE CLEAR TO NORWEGIAN LABOR MOVEMENT THAT DEVELOPING A UNIFIED SD PROGRAM FOR SOLVING UNEMPLOYMENT IS REALLY BEYOND PRACTICAL CAPABILITIES OF SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL.
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